

Nuclear power capacity by 2020

865. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what would be the installed capacity of nuclear power by 2020;

(b) whether the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. is ready to meet the above target at their own; and

(c) if not, how the short fall would be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The present nuclear power capacity of 3900 MWe in the country is expected to increase to 7280 MWe by the end of XIth Plan on completion of projects already under construction. The XIth plan proposals envisages commencement of work on 8 x 700 MWe of indigenous reactors totaling 5600 MWe capacity by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL). Four 500 MWe Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI) are also planned. Thus, a capacity of about 15000 MWe is planned to be reached by 2020 only through indigenous efforts. This capacity will be achieved by the two Government Companies namely NPCIL and BHAVINI Ltd. set up for this purpose. The efforts of the Government to access international reactors and fuel through international cooperation open up the possibility of a capacity addition of 20000 to 40000 MWe by 2020. However, setting up of such capacity by NPCIL will depend upon the developments in regard to international cooperation.

Uranium reserves in Meghalaya

†866. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently uranium reserves have been found in Meghalaya and as a result fulfillment of requirement of the same for producing atomic power in the country has brightened;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assessment made with regard to quantum of Uranium?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) has established reserves of uranium at different places, particularly in the West Khasi Hills district in Meghalaya State in 1992. Recently significant uranium mineralization has been located at Umthongkut which is about 15 KM by a kachha foot from the nearest road head at Soling, West Khasi Hills district. The economic viability of this occurrence would be known only after assessment of the sub-surface data to be obtained by drilling.

This will partially help in fulfillment of requirement of fuel for nuclear reactors for generation of electricity.

(c) AMD has established 16400 tonnes of uranium reserves in parts of Meghalaya as per the following details:

| Deposit Name | Tonnes of uranium oxide |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Kylleng-Pyndengsiong, | |
| Mawthabah (formely Domiasiat) | 9500 |
| Wahkyn | 5300 |
| Tymai | 600 |
| Gomaghat-Phlongdiloin | 1000 |
| TOTAL | 16400 |

Participation of private sector and MNCs in nuclear power production

867. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have made out any strategy for participation of private sector and MNC in production of nuclear power;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps for providing security to nuclear power plants and its infrastructure?